

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STRASB 00021 251901Z

44

ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

SY-10 FBIE-00 SCA-01 EB-11 FAA-00 DOTE-00 A-01 AF-10

ARA-16 EA-11 INT-08 FEA-02 DRC-01 /186 W

----- 090259

O P 251715Z JAN 74

FM AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0672

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRORITY

US MISSION OECD PARIS

US MISSION EC BRUSSELS PRIORITY 0110

US MISSION NATO BRUSSELS PRIORITY 0092

AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

US MISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 0032

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0028

UNCLAS STRASBOURG 21

DEPT PASS OTHER CAPITALS AS APPROPRIATE

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OE

SUBJECT: ARAB AMBASSADORS ATTEND EUROPEAN DECISION ON
TERRORISM

REF: WOODS/HOFFACKER TELCON JAN. 25, 1974

1. SUMMARY - MINISTERS OF SEVENTEEN MEMBER STATES OF THE
COUNCIL OF EUROPE MEETING IN STRASBOURG JANUARY 24 DECIDED
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PAGE 02 STRASB 00021 251901Z

ON CERTAIN MINIMAL EFFORTS TO COMBAT TERRORISM. DECISION

TAKEN IN FACE OF PRESSURE FOR STRONGER ACTION FROM CONCIL
PARLIAMENTARIANS, WHO REMAINED UNSATISFIED. PRESENCE IN
STRASBOURG OF REPRESENTATIVES OF SEVEN ARAB STATES MAY
HAVE CONFIRMED NATURAL COUNCIL PENCHANT FOR INACTION, BT
IS CERTAINLY NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR LACK OF STRONGER MEASURES.
END SUMMARY.

2. THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE
HAS SINCE 1972 REPEATEDLY PROPOSED THAT COUCIL MEMBER
GOVERNMENTS WORK OUT A JOINT EUROPEAN ATTITUDE IN THE
FIGHT AGAINST INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM. COMPOSITION OF
COUNCIL, WHICH INCLUDE MALTA AND CYPRUS, AND LACK OF
UNANIMITY AMONG GOVERNMENTS HAS FRUSTRATED MEANINGFUL
COUNCIL ACTION IN FIELD. AMONG OTHERS, ASSEMBLY
PRESIDENT, ITALIAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT GIUSEPPE VEDOVATO,
HAS STRONGLY CRITICIED GOVERNMENT INACTION, MOST
RECENTLY FOLLOWING ROME AIRPORT TRAGEDY.

3. LARGELY IN RESPONSE TO ASSEMBLY PRESSURE, MINISTERS
OF 17 MEMBER GOVERNMENTS DECIDED AT REGULARY SCHEDULED
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING JANUARY 24 UPON CERTAIN
LIMITED MEASURES. MINISTERS INSTRUCTED EUROPEAN COMMITTEE
ON CRIME PROBLEMS TO EXAMINE LEGAL ASPECTS OF PROBLEM
FURTHER THEY RECOMMENDED THAT MEMBER STATES AGREE TO
EITHER PROSECUTE OR EXTRADITE TERRORISTS. DECISIONS
DELIBERATED IN CLOSED SESSION IN PRESENCE OF NEITHER
ARAB VISITORS NOR THER OBSERVERS. THEY WERE ANNOUNCED
JANUARY 24 AND EXPLAINED TODAY JANUARY 25 BEFORE PARLIA-
MENTARY ASSEMBLY AND PRESS. TEXTS WILL BE POUCHED
EUR/RPE.

4. PREDICABLE ASSEMBLY REACTION EXPRESSED BY AUSTRIAN
SOCIALIST CZERNETZ WHO FELT THAT SANCTIONS ENVISAGED NOT
LIKELY TO DISSUADE FANATICS AND DEPLORED FACT THE EUROPEAN
MINISTERS OF POLICE AND JUSTIE WOULD NOT BE MEETING TO
CONSIDER PROBLEM. ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT VEDOVATO STATED
HIS DEEP REGRET AT LACK OF EFFECTIVE ACTION.

5. IN RESPONSE, CYPRIOT FOREIGN MINISTER CHRISTOPHIDES
SAD MINISTERS SHARED CONCERN, CITED POLITICAL SIGNIFI-
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PAGE 03 STRASB 00021 251901Z

CANCE PROBLEM AND SAID HE WAS SORRY THAT MINISTERS HAD
NOT FELT ABLE TO GO FURTHER AT THIS STAGE. ALSO SPEAKING
FOR MINISTERS, AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER DESCRIBED
DECISION OF AS LOWEST COMMON DENOMINATOR . HE CONTINUED
THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS PREPARED FOR CONSIDERABLY
STRONGER ACTION.

6. AMBASSADORS OR CHARES FROM PARIS EMBASSIES OF

ALGERIA, LEBANON, LYBIA, SYRIA, ARAB EMIRATES AND MOROCCO
PRESENT IN STRASBOURG DURING MINISTERS DISCUSSIONS AND
CONCURRENT SESSION OF COUNCIL S PARLAMENTARY ASSEMBLY.
VISIT ARRANGED AT INITIATIVE OF ARAB LEAGUE WITH
ANNOUNCED INTENTION OF OPENING CONTACTS BETWEEN ARABS
AND COUNCIL.

7. ARAB INTEREST IN COUNCIL, DATING FROM SEVERAL YEARS,
HAS REVIVED IN RECENT MONTHS WITH ARAB LEAGUE COMMUNICA-
TING IMPORTANT DECISIONS DIRECTLY TO COUNCIL AND LEBANON
REQUEST FOR OBSERVER STATUS TO BALANCE THAT OF ISRAEL.
ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK SEEM SIMILAR TO THESE IN COPENHAGEN
ONLY ON MUCH SMALLER SCALE. AMBASSADORS ATTENDED
ASSEMBLY DEBATE ON ENERGY CRISIS, ENTERTAINED AVAILABLE
MINISTERS, PARLIAMNTARIANS AND OTHER PERSONALITIES AT
SUMPTUOUS DINNER AND WERE WELL REPRESENTED AT VARIOUS
OTHER SOCIAL FUNCTIONS RELATED TO ASSEMBLY SESSION. FRENCH
PREFET FOR REGION GAVE LUNCH IN THEIR HONOR AS DID SYG OF
COUNCIL OF EUROPE. LEVEL AND SCALE OF CONTACTS WITH COUNCIL
SOMEWHAT LESS THAN DESIRED BY ARABS, HOWEVER, DUE TO THEIR
LATE DECISION TO ATTEND AND COMPETING COUNCIL PRIORITIES.
AMONG THE LATTER WERE US AND CANADIAN CONGRESSIONAL
DELEGATIONS IN STRASBOURG FOR ENERGY DEBATE WITH ASSEMBLY.
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS UNABLE TO AGREE
TO ARAB REQUEST FOR MEETING DURING SESSION, BUT HAVE
ARRANGED SUCH A MEETING FOR MARCH.

8. COMMENT: TIMING OF ARAB VISIT DURING COUNCIL
CONSIDERATION OF ENERGY CRISIS AND TERRORISM FAR FROM
COINCIDENTAL. IT UNLIKELY HOWEVER THAT THEIR LARGELY
SOCIAL PRESENCE HAD ANY EFFECT ON DECISIONS TAKEN, OTHER
THAN PERHAPS TO CONFIRM EXISTING POSITIONS AMONG MINISTERS
AND ASSEMBLY PARLIAMENTARIANS. PRESS REPORTS OF EXTENSIVE
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PAGE 04 STRASB 00021 251901Z

SUBSTANTIVE CONTACTS AND DIRECT ARAB INFLUENCE ON DECISIONS
GROSSLY EXAGGERATED.
WOODS

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Message Attributes

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